

WHITE HORTICULTURAL PARK
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting: December 6, 2004, Green Spring Gardens Park Multi-purpose Room
People in Attendance: See Sign in Sheets: 53 attendees
Board Members: Mr. Frank S. Vajda, Mason District
Consultants: Krista Snider, James Milner Associates
Alisa Hefner, James Milner Associates
FCPA Staff: Mike Kane, Kirk Holley, Sandy Stallman, Chris Strand, Bob Wharton,
Angie Allen

Welcome & Introductions by Frank Vajda, Park Authority Board Member, Mason District

Stated Purpose of the Meeting:

- Introduce the public to the park property
- Present the planning process that will be following in planning the park.
- Present background and history of the property
- Present the special horticultural resources at the property

Reviewed Meeting Agenda

Presentations

Planning Process and Park Background (see attached)

Sandy Stallman

Fairfax County Park Authority

Site Analysis and Horticultural Resources (see attached)

Krista Schneider and Alisa Hefner

John Milner Associates

Questions and Answer Session Summary

1. What other facilities beyond horticulture resources are for public use? What is the access point?
Answer: Not sure at this time. Horticultural resources will be primary focus.
2. What size is the staff?
Answer: Not determined yet if site will be staff
3. Is there going to be a buffer?
Answer: This will be determined during the process, however, there is an existing wooded buffer around most of the property.
4. Has property conveyed to the county?
Answer: Yes, in 1999 from Mrs. White, who holds a life estate.
5. Is there any funding in the five year plan?
Answer: Master Plan process is funded through 1998 bond funds. Site design, development and construction are not currently funded.
6. Is the property bordered by a fence? Will wire fence remain?

- Answer: A fence is around the whole property. Not sure at this time if it will remain.
7. In presentation, you said the site is 13 acres – county tax records show 26 acres. What happened to the other acres?
Answer: Staff will investigate, our records and the deed indicate 13 acres. *Note: County tax records show an additional 13-acre tax parcel record that represents the life estate, but does not actually represent an additional 13 acres. The property is indeed 13 acres.*
8. If existing entrance turned into park entrance, what improvements would there be?
Answer: That is to be determined during the master plan process.
9. Where will parking be located; how much?
Answer: To be determined.
10. Will there be a caretaker?
Answer: To be determined.
11. How will horticulture elements be protected during these beginning stages?
Answer: Mrs. White currently manages the property.
12. How does decision get made to make it horticulture park without citizen involvement?
Answer: Condition of the deed conveying it to the Park Authority.
13. Will Rhododendron Society be involved?
Answer: Park Authority will manage the park; There is a role for the Rhododendron group to assist like any other friends groups.
14. Can you talk about planning and public input?
Answer: Next step is planning workshop.... We will come back to the public with design options; will do concept brainstorming at the workshop and bring back a draft master plan to public hearing.
15. How will information be provided during process? On website?
Answer: No website established yet; may be in future. Sign-up sheet begins mailing list and notifications will be provided to those on the mailing list. Adjacent property owners and civic associations are also notified. Press releases will also be provided to the media.
16. Concerned that main access could be Holloman, Sleepy Hollow to Goldsboro Road. Don't want more traffic.
Answer: Appreciate this concern. Main access point is yet to be determined.
17. Holloman and Annandale Roads are very congested. How will you plan traffic control?
Answer: Yet to be determined.
18. Intersection at Sleepy Hollow will create traffic at elementary school.
Answer: We'll look at it.
19. Is there a less congested area without as many houses to connect to for access?
Answer: Park is surrounded by residences; look at all options.
20. Fifteen or so years ago there was an effort to bring Goldsboro Road into property, but it was turned down by county; how could that change now?
Answer: Not sure, I'll have to research.
21. Since PA is already working with County Department of Transportation, what have they been tasked to do at this time? Are they giving input to what is going to be improved?
Answer: DOT has only been asked for preliminary general information on road requirements for a future park entrance without a specific location.

22. Will there be a cut through at Sleepy Hollow? Holloman? Recently put up stop signs for traffic calming and they haven't worked.
Answer: Perhaps other traffic calming measures are needed. We will look at the traffic patterns around the park.
23. Green Spring generates 125,000 people per year. If White expects that volume, it gives an idea of impacts. Plus buses for school children.
Answer: White is much smaller in scale than Green Spring – uses and access still to be determined.
24. Is there any thought at having offices on property?
Answer: There might be park support space that could include an office.
25. What kind of people will be visiting? How will this be determined? Has Mrs. White given you an idea what she would like?
Answers: Not yet determined; through planning process; horticulture resources preserved for public enjoyment.
26. Are you planning picnic area? Will it attract animals?
Answer: Not yet determined. If so, regular maintenance and operations staff will address any animal issues.
27. Picnic and BBQ areas lead to parties all night; don't want that all night long?
Answer: Understood.
28. Do we have other horticultural parks like White in the park system?
Answer: Yes, the Leven Preserve in McLean is located within a residential neighborhood on a collector road.
29. What kind of use, traffic, and visitor numbers do they have at Leven?
Answer: Trees and open areas; native species focus, rental house – in residential neighborhood.
30. How long will it be open? How do we insure it closes at dark?
Answer: Parks generally close at dark. Hours of operation will be looked at in the master plan process.
31. Will it be staffed?
Answer: Not sure yet.
32. American Horticultural Society has similar size, not tremendous. Property on GW Parkway, River Farm, historical house, that is comparable.
Answer: Yes, it is a lovely property.
33. Another model of comparison – Brookside McCrillis Gardens. Are they surrounded by homes? Entrance across from elementary school?
Answer: Yes, it is in a residential area near a school.
34. Are there other parks this size that is comparable?
There are other parks that are the same size; but different purposes and uses? Leven Preserve in McLean is comparable.
35. Would you be considering tot lots? What will be non-horticultural?
Answer: Not determined yet.
36. Ambitious plan through 2005, can you review what happens when you submit 2232 and what happens after?
Answer: Reviewed process again.
37. Use of building:
Answer: Unknown.

38. Concern about pond and safety?
Answer: It is a small pond and it is not always wet. We can't protect from all circumstances especially with nature.
39. Residents are concerned about access. What are considerations for access? Mrs. White was concerned about people being on property by pond and concerned about children on site?
Answer: We will look at all feasible options for access. Understand and appreciate the concerns about access and safety.
40. Time frame for park to open?
Answer: Mrs. White has a life estate. Park Authority will not have possession until that expires and will then have to secure funding for design, construction, operations and maintenance.
41. When can we submit comments?
Answer: Comments accepted throughout process. Reminded them of contact information in handout.

Mr. Vajda thanked attendees and staff and the meeting ended at approximately 8:40 pm.